

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A substrate for an information recording medium, which substrate is made of an alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass, the glass having a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of 620°C or higher and satisfying a requirement that the alkali ion elution amount per a unit area when the glass is immersed in water having a temperature of 80°C for 24 hours is 0.2  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^2$  or less,

2. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass contains  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  as essential components.

3. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass is formed from  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$ .

4. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has no chemically strengthened layer and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1 to 12 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , 2 to 25 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 3 to 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , 0 to 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to less than 1 % of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , 0 to 8 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and 0 to 1 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ .

5. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , 2 to 25 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , 1 to 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 3 to 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 0 to 3 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to less than 1 % of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , 1 to 8 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and 0 to 1 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  being more than 70 % by weight,

6. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 10 % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 15 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to 3 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO<sub>2</sub>, more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO<sub>2</sub>, 0 to less than 1 % of Li<sub>2</sub>O, 1 to 8 % of Na<sub>2</sub>O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO.

7. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, which has an average linear thermal expansion coefficient ( $\alpha$ ), measured at a temperature of 100 to 300°C, of  $70 \times 10^{-7}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  or more.

8. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass has a specific gravity of 3.5 or less.

9. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, which is a substrate for a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

10. (currently amended) An information recording medium comprising an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of the claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

11. (original) The information recording medium as recited in claim 10, which is a perpendicular magnetic recording medium.

12. (currently amended) A process for producing an information recording medium, comprising the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium, the process employing the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 and comprising heating said substrate to 400 to 600°C in said step.